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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Erdogan calls Bush: Find the killers in Mosul - Milliyet
EU wants UN 'intervention' in Cyprus - Hurriyet
Boucher: No Cyprus solution except through the Annan Plan -
Turkiye
Rocket attack on US base in Mosul: 24 killed - Miliyet
Rockets hit US cafeteria in Mosul, 24 killed - Hurriyet
Bush: Situation in Iraq better now - Sabah
Blair pays surprise visit to Baghdad - Aksam

OPINION MAKERS

Erdogan asks Bush about Mosul - Cumhuriyet
Erdogan to Bush: Time to remove the PKK from Iraq - Zaman
Bush acknowledges 'effective' resistance in Iraq -
Cumhuriyet
Poll shows Americans pessimistic on Iraq - Cumhuriyet
Freedom House report: Turkey is partly free - Cumhuriyet
Greek Cypriots, Denktas wage war against Annan Plan -
Radikal
Deadly strike at US base in Mosul - Radikal
UN condemns human rights situation in Iran - Cumhuriyet
FBI documents show torture at Guantanamo - Zaman
Putin calls for international help on Chechnya - Zaman
UN warns over 1 million refugees starving - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

PM Erdogan calls President Bush: PM Erdogan called
President Bush Tuesday and urged US cooperation in
investigating the deadly ambush of five Turkish security
guards in Mosul, papers report. The PM reportedly thanked
the President for actions taken by US forces during the
attack, and for US efforts to return the remains of the
victims to Turkey. Bush said that Washington is ready to
cooperate in an investigation. Erdogan voiced concern about
increasing clashes between US forces and Iraqi insurgents in
Mosul, and stressed the need to protect Iraq's territorial
integrity. Erdogan also suggested holding a trilateral
security meeting in Turkey among Turkish, US and Iraqi
officials to outline a plan for dealing with the PKK.
President Bush agreed that such a meeting would be useful.
The Prime Minister said that Turkey supports the election
process now underway in Iraq. President Bush congratulated
the Prime Minister on Turkey's getting a date for EU
accession talks, and credited Erdogan's 'leadership' in
achieving that goal. The Prime Minister thanked President
Bush for US support during the EU process.

MFA on the terrorist attack in Mosul: In a written response
to a question on the killing of Turkish policemen in Mosul,
MFA Spokesman Namik Tan said that Turkey had asked
Washington and Baghdad to investigate the attack. Tan noted
that US forces in the region had intervened during the
incident and killed two of the assailants. He also said
that US forces took the injured Turkish security attache to
a hospital in Beled, and that Americans later helped to
transfer the remains of the victims to Turkey. 'We are
thankful for the careful and sensitive approach of US
officials,' Tan noted.

US Official in Washington Says Unfair to Blame US:
"Hurriyet" reports that an unidentified US official in
Washington said that efforts to hold the US responsible for
the deaths of the five Turkish policemen in Mosul were
'unfair.' The official added that if Turkey's parliament
had approved the deal to send US troops to Iraq through
Turkey on March 1, 2003, 'Turkey would have had tens of
thousands of troops on the ground in that region.' 'We

should never forget that,' he concluded.

Minister Aksu Responds on Mosul Attack: "Yeni Safak" reports that Turkish Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu claimed that the group that attacked Turkish security personnel in Mosul used a rocket to initiate the attack. He claimed that the convoy had been ambushed 'in one of the most secure areas of Mosul.' Aksu reported that '15-20 terrorists' had been involved in the attack. Asked who may have perpetrated the attack, Aksu noted that 'Turkey has a lot of enemies - the PKK, al-Qaeda. There are even people leaving from Turkey to join these groups,' the Minister added. Aksu said that the United States does not have control of the security situation around Mosul and pointed out that the US is having trouble protecting its own forces and Iraqi security units. The Minister recalled that US Ambassador Edelman had phoned him over the weekend to express his condolences for the deaths of the Turkish policemen.

Erdogan due in Syria: PM Erdogan will pay a two-day official visit to Syria starting today. Erdogan, who will be accompanied by more than 200 Turkish businessmen is to sign two trade agreements with Damascus. The sides will discuss Iraq, the Kurdish question, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Some recent press reports say a trip to Iran is also on the Prime Minister's agenda, as well as a possible visit to Israel. FM Gul will travel to Israel next week. No dates have been mentioned for a possible visit by PM Erdogan to Israel.

EU urges 'all sides' to move on Cyprus: Dutch PM Jan Peter Balkenende, speaking as current EU President, called on Greek and Turkish Cypriots to resume peace efforts sponsored by the UN. Balkenende noted that Turkey must extend its EU cooperation and customs accord to cover the bloc's ten new member states, including the Republic of Cyprus. He reiterated that such a step would not amount to Turkish recognition of Cyprus. Nicosia says it will not accept the Annan plan, which the Greek Cypriot people overwhelmingly rejected at a referendum last April.

Turkey supports small businesses in Palestine: Turkey donated 900,000 USD to the Palestinian Authority for the development of small and medium-scale enterprises. FM Gul called on all sides to help resume the Middle East peace talks. Gul also called for fair and transparent elections in Palestine. He voiced hope that the upcoming elections in Palestine, the government reshuffle in Israel, and President Bush's second mandate in the US will bring about significant opportunities in the peace process.

"Freedom House" report: An annual report issued by "Freedom House" describes Turkey as a country that is 'partly' free, "Cumhuriyet" reports. Compared to last year, Turkey has made progress in expanding civil liberties thanks to reforms carried out as part of Ankara's effort to meet EU criteria.

Turk "Migros" new partner of "Wal-Mart": Turkey's "Migros" chain of supermarkets will undertake a partial merger with US retail giant "Wal-Mart," the economic-political daily "Referans" reports. "Migros," an outlet of the Koc Holding group of companies in Turkey, is to sell part of its shares to "Wal-Mart." The new partnership will operate mostly in the Russian market, "Referans" claims.

Committee investigates mass grave: A parliamentary committee investigating a mass grave discovered recently in Kulp, near Turkey's mainly Kurdish city of Diyarbakir, reports that the remains found there likely belong to 11 villagers who went missing after being detained by Turkish security forces in 1993. The investigators rejected claims that the remains were the result of an internal clash within the PKK. The committee has called for a legal investigation of the issue. The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) earlier ruled that compensation must be paid to the victims' families.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

-- Attack Against Turkish Personnel in Mosul
-- Relations with the United States
"The Ambush and Preventive Measures"
Fikret Bila observed in the mass appeal "Milliyet (12/22):
"Losing our five policemen in a violent attack near Mosul hurt us all very deeply and pointed out the need for every institution of the State to take preventive measures for future travel to Iraq. While Ankara is working on some new precautions, including travel by military plane, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has intensified its diplomatic efforts in Ankara, Washington and Baghdad to ensure that the attackers are found and tried. The same request was presented to the US Embassy and the Iraqi Embassy in Ankara. Ankara continues to gather information about the incident through military and civilian offices. Ankara is pleased by news that a nearby US military unit that saw the attack from a watchtower intervened and killed two of the terrorists. US troops also transported the wounded Turks to the US

military hospital immediately, and their help in transporting the remains to Turkey have been noted positively by Ankara. Security units in Ankara believe that the Zarkavi group is responsible for the attack. However, they don't rule out the possibility that those who planned the attack and those who carried it out could be different people. Developments in Iraq continue to increase Ankara's concerns. Iraq remains at the top of the agenda for Turkish security officials."

"Who Did This in Iraq?"

Melih Asik wrote in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (12/22): "First, Prime Minister Erdogan referred to those killed in Fallujah as 'martyrs.' This angered the United States. Then Ambassador Edelman had to wait six weeks to get an appointment with the Prime Minister. The Americans were beside themselves. Then we protested the U.S. Embassy's using the term 'ecumenical' in reference to the Patriarchate. Washington 'took note' of this. Then, at that very moment, five of our security personnel were drawn into an ambush and killed. As General Tolon said, we 'took note' of this. Now who do you think it was that who may have killed our five policemen?"

"Do We Trust the US?"

Halit Kakinc wrote in the conservative-sensational "Star" (12/22): "Unfortunately, I can not trust the United States. My concerns about a second Bush term are being proven correct. And my mistrust is increasing every day. The words 'sensitivity' and 'kindness' have no place in Bush's policies. Basically, Bush has two aims. One is to control the world's oil single-handedly in the 21st century. The second is to become the single power in the region to have energy supply lines. Washington has kept Turkey out of Iraq and ignored the PKK presence there. The new powers that the US considers as its collaborators are Barzani and Talabani. At this point, as a strategic partner, Turkey must answer the question about whether or not the US should be trusted. Is the US trying to establish stability in Iraq, or is it trying to achieve a different aim? Will Turkey continue to be a strategic partner even if the US is pursuing different goals? What does Turkey want in Iraq? Do we have any plans to prevent the establishment of a Kurdish state in Northern Iraq? These and many other questions came to my mind during the funeral for our five policemen who were killed in Mosul last week. I can't imagine what our state officials were thinking."

DEUTSCH